THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Damage and tampering of mail

1205. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of damaging and tampering of mail by the employees of the postal department are on the rise throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of complaints made by the general public in this regard during the last three years in each State and Union Territory;

(c) the number of cases in which action was taken and responsibility fixed and the number of cases in which compensation was paid; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take to ensure the safety of mail from damage and tampering in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (d) The information is being obtained and would be placed on the table of the House.

Group Dialling facilities in Madhya Pradesh Telephone Exchanges

1206. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many telephone exchanges, particularly, the smaller ones in the State of Madhya Pradesh do not have group dialling facilities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to make available the group dialling facilities in all the telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) There are 1566 telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh. Out of which 253 are having Group Dialling facility.

(c) Schemes have been prepared for providing Group Dialling facilities in 407 eligible telephone exchanges in Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93 and for the remaining during 1993-94.

Losses suffered by Telecom Department

1207. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently adopted a policy wherein the staff members would be held accountable for the losses of revenue suffered by the Telecommunication Department;

(b) if so, in how many cases, Government have fixed responsibility and staff members held accountable for the loss; and

(c) what is the extent to which such steps would increase the efficiency of the Department ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : (a) Sir, disciplinary rules already contain provisions for recovery of any pecuniary loss suffered by the Department from any employee if he is held directly responsible. No other new policy in this regard has been recently adopted.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Australian Technology for Network Management system in the country

1208. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Australia had offered "Grant in-aid" for setting up a Network Management System at the national and regional levels in the country and that the offer has been accepted by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telecast technologies offered by Australia is obsolete; and